

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-155

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE
ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTARY PAYROLL DEDUCTION PROGRAM
FOR THE SAVE OUR SERVICES (SOS) FUND**

WHEREAS, as a general rule, city leaders are in a better position than state government to make decisions governing local affairs, educate the citizenry as to the benefits of strong local government, and advocate on behalf of cities; and

WHEREAS, measures enacted through the legislative process, as well as by statewide ballot initiatives, over the last 20 years have produced the unintended consequences of destabilizing city finances and have weakened the ability of city residents to govern local affairs through their elected community representatives; and

WHEREAS, the state of California is currently using \$1.35 million of the City of Elk Grove's Vehicle License Fee "backfill" monies to help balance its budget; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislative Analyst's Office has projected that the state is facing a structural budget deficit of close to \$10 billion per year over the next five years, and city services and revenues are at risk of further state raids; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities is currently conducting research on various ways to secure constitutional protection of city services and revenues and will likely sponsor a statewide ballot measure for this purpose in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Action for Better Cities was created by the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities to advocate voter approval of constitutional protection of city services and revenues and opposition to ballot proposals that reduce local democratic control of local services and revenues; and

WHEREAS, Action for Better Cities has established the "Save Our Services" (SOS) Fund to help finance the cost of a statewide ballot measure campaign to preserve and protect city services and revenues; and

WHEREAS, elected and appointed officials and employees have the opportunity to provide leadership in Action for Better Cities through voluntary financial contributions to the "SOS" Fund; and

WHEREAS, the expenditure of monies in the "SOS" Fund by Action for Better Cities shall be limited and dedicated to a ballot measure campaign that is designed specifically to strengthen the services and revenues of city governments; and

WHEREAS, The City Council wishes to establish a voluntary payroll deduction program that allows elected officials and employees to contribute to the non-profit corporation of their choice.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove that:

Section One. There is hereby established the Voluntary Payroll Deduction Program of the City of Elk Grove.

Section Two. Any employee or member of the City Council of the City of Elk Grove is immediately eligible to participate in the Program.

Section Three. The purpose of the Program is to allow an employee or a member of the City Council to direct the City of Elk Grove to remit a portion of the salary payable pursuant to city resolution to charitable, educational, governmental, or other purposes for which non-profit mutual benefit corporations are organized.

Section Four. Participation in the Program is completely voluntary.

Section Five. The City Manager or his designee is directed to do all things necessary and proper to implement the Program established by this Resolution including, but not limited to, preparing appropriate forms to be completed by participating employees and city council members, informing city council members of the full range of charitable, educational, governmental, or other purposes for which non-profit mutual benefit corporations are organized, and carrying out the direction of the participating employees or city council members by remitting a portion of their salary as stated in the appropriate forms.

Section Six. In establishing this Program, the City Council specifically wishes to make its support known for a voluntary payroll deduction to protect city services and revenues through contributions to the "Save Our Services" (SOS) Fund, administered on behalf of the League of California Cities by Action for Better Cities.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove this 20th day of August 2003.



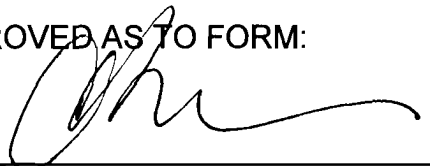
SOPHIA SCHERMAN, MAYOR of the
CITY OF ELK GROVE

ATTEST:



PEGGY E. JACKSON, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



ANTHONY B. MANZANETTI,
CITY ATTORNEY

**CERTIFICATION
ELK GROVE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2003-155**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO) ss
CITY OF ELK GROVE)

I, Peggy E. Jackson, City Clerk of the City of Elk Grove, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 20th day of August, 2003 by the following roll call vote:

AYES 4: COUNCILMEMBERS: Scherman, Soares, Leary, Cooper

NOES 0: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSTAIN 0: COUNCILMEMBERS:

ABSENT 1: COUNCILMEMBERS: Briggs



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peggy E. Jackson", is written over a solid horizontal line.

**Peggy E. Jackson, City Clerk
City of Elk Grove, California**

“SAVE OUR SERVICES” FUND Frequently Asked Questions

What is the “Save Our Services” (SOS) fund?

The Save Our Services (SOS) fund is a collection of private contributions from city employees and elected officials throughout California. Every pay period, thousands of people will be contributing to protect city tax dollars.

The goal of SOS is to protect local tax dollars by a constitutional amendment so that those people who work in city government never have to worry about the state government raiding city budgets. We believe the people of California value the work that cities and their workers provide – by everyone in the state making a small, regular contribution, we can make a big difference.

What’s at stake for city employees?

In a single word: jobs. The services and jobs that cities offer are in jeopardy whenever their revenue streams are threatened. Just as if someone were to take away a certain amount of your family’s income – you would have no choice but to cut back on what your family’s budget would be. Cities are in precisely the same place. That means city employees and services aren’t safe, until city revenues are.

What’s the urgency – Why now?

For a couple of reasons. First, this budget year was the most difficult for California in a decade. During the last economic downturn, cities and local governments took the brunt of financial cuts. That meant the loss of jobs, closing of services and the reduction of staff – a situation that seems to be repeating itself throughout the state.

Second, cities have become more politically active as a result of the state’s last major financial take-away and that has threatened some powerful special interests. In fact, those interests tried to pass a law last year preventing city employees from protecting themselves in just this way.

How is the fund related to Action for Better Cities?

Action for Better Cities, or ABC, is a non-profit corporation that was created by the League of California Cities, to assist California cities to protect and stabilize city finance through political activities. ABC’s status as a 501(c)4 corporation makes it legally possible to raise and spend funds on issues specific to city matters.

The SOS fund will be administered by Action for Better Cities but accounted for and managed separately from all other ABC funds. Money in the SOS fund will be in a separate account and its accountability to contributors handled in a distinct fashion.

Who will control expenditures of these funds and how will that be determined?

When it established this fund, Action for Better Cities amended its by-laws and operating policy to strictly limit how the funds in this account are used. Expenditures will be controlled by the Board of ABC and only made for League-approved statewide ballot measure advocacy to protect city services and revenues.

What activities can the fund be used for?

Funds can be for polling, campaign advertising and brochures, campaign staff, signature gathering efforts and similar activities directly related to a political campaign.

What activities can the fund NOT be used for?

Money in the fund can only be used for an activity directly related to city revenue preservation and protection. These funds CANNOT be used for activities related to labor/management relations, tax sharing proposals, housing, transportation or any other issue not related to protecting revenue sources. None of these funds will be used to pay for the day-to-day operations of Action for Better Cities or political activity beyond the scope of protecting city revenue sources.

If it's not about protecting city money – it won't be used.

Are contributions to the “SOS” fund tax-deductible?

Contributions are not deductible for federal and state tax purposes. As a 501(c)4 organization, Action for Better Cities and the “Save Our Services” fund raise and spend money on direct advocacy for political purposes – as a result, contributions may not be deducted from your taxes.

Who will know what my contribution is – or if I contribute at all?

Action for Better Cities is required by the state's campaign disclosure laws to report the name, occupation, employer, and date of contribution(s) of anyone who contributes in excess of \$99 in a single calendar year to the Save Our Services fund. Other than this required disclosure, the contribution program is designed to be as anonymous as possible. All of our communications are sent to all city management staff in California and asked to be distributed to the entire employee base – that way, you know what work we're doing on behalf of cities, even if you aren't able to contribute at this time.

Of course, the staff handling payroll duties at your city will have to be made aware of your intent to voluntarily contribute to the fund. However, existing law allows the city to keep payroll contributions of any sort confidential.

Once a statewide campaign is conducted – what will become of the fund?

Our hope is that the success of this effort will help city employees see how strong they are when united for a common purpose. While there are no specific plans as of yet – we envision an on-going operation that will protect cities, their employees and the services they perform indefinitely.

Is there a minimum contribution required to help out?

There is no minimum required to contribute, and as a voluntary plan, you may begin contributing and terminate your participation at any time. You may also change the amount you contribute at any time as well.

Currently, we have employees contributing anywhere from \$2.50 to \$25.00 per pay period. The average contribution is roughly \$5.00 per employee. Imagine the power of city employees if everyone in California were contributing just \$5.00 per pay period to the “Save Our Services” Fund!

**As of July 2003, 88 California cities have adopted a resolution establishing the
"SOS" Fund voluntary payroll deduction program:**

ANTIOCH	CORTE MADERA	LARKSPUR	POMONA	STOCKTON
APPLE VALLEY	DAVIS	LINCOLN	POWAY	SUSANVILLE
ARROYO GRANDE	DELANO	LIVERMORE	REDLANDS	THOUSAND OAKS
ATASCADERO	DINUBA	LOMA LINDA	RIVERSIDE	TRACY
BARSTOW	DUARTE	LOMPOC	ROCKLIN	TRUCKEE
BELLFLOWER	EL MONTE	MANHATTAN BEACH	ROHNERT PARK	TULARE
BELMONT	EMERYVILLE	MERCED	SAN BERNARDINO	TURLOCK
BREA	ESCONDIDO	MILL VALLEY	SAN BUENAVENTURA	TWENTYNINE PALMS
BUELLTON	FILLMORE	MONTCLAIR	SAN CARLOS	UNION CITY
CALIFORNIA CITY	FONTANA	MORGAN HILL	SAN LUIS OBISPO	UPLAND
CAMPBELL	FORT BRAGG	NEWMAN	SAN RAFAEL	VISALIA
CATHEDRAL CITY	FORTUNA	NOVATO	SANTA BARBARA	VISTA
CHINO HILLS	FOSTER CITY	OAKLEY	SANTA FE SPRINGS	WEST SACRAMENTO
CHULA VISTA	FREMONT	PACIFIC GROVE	SANTA MARIA	WILLIAMS
CITRUS HEIGHTS	GRAND TERRACE	PALM DESERT	SIGNAL HILL	WINTERS
CLOVIS	HEMET	PARAMOUNT	SOLEDAD	YUBA CITY
COLTON	HIGHLAND	PINOLE	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE	
CORNING	LAKEWOOD	PISMO BEACH	ST. HELENA	